

**PUBLIC NOTIFICATION**  
Important Information About Your Drinking Water

**Maximum Contaminant Level Violation - FECAL COLIFORM / E. COLI**

*Este informe contiene información importante acerca de su agua potable. Haga que alguien lo traduzca para usted, o hable con alguien que lo entienda.*

Date: July 10, 2026

To the Customers of: CTWC – Chester, Guilford Water Systems PWS ID: CT0608011, CT0261031

Compliance Period: July 1, 2026 – July 31, 2026

Our public water system recently violated a drinking water standard. As our customers, you have a right to know what happened and what we did to correct this situation. We routinely monitor for drinking water contaminants. The results of required water quality tests during the period above indicated the presence of bacteria in our distribution system. During required repeat samples, one sample location in Essex tested positive for the presence of E. coli bacteria, while other sample locations did not. Because the bacteria was detected in one of the confirmation samples, it is considered a violation of the drinking water standard.

**What does this mean?**

The United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has determined that the presence of E. coli is a serious health concern. *E. coli is bacteria whose presence indicates that the water may be contaminated with human or animal waste. Microbes in these wastes can cause diarrhea, cramps, nausea, headaches, or other symptoms. They may pose a special health risk for infants, young children, the elderly, and people with severely compromised immune systems.*

**What should I do?**

You are urged to take the precautions indicated below before any human consumption of water including: drinking, food preparation, making coffee or ice, dishwashing, or the brushing of teeth.

- Boiling the water for one minute to inactivate any bacteria that may be present; OR
- Using bottled water or an alternate source of approved drinking water.

**People at increased risk (i.e. infants, young children, the elderly, and people with severely compromised immune systems) should seek advice from their health care providers about drinking this water.** Please consult your physician if you have any other medical questions or concerns.

Your tap water can be used without boiling for bathing, cleaning, sanitation or other purposes where the water is not consumed.

**What is being done?**

We are currently working to process additional water samples and expect results within 24 hours. **We will inform you when tests show no bacteria and you no longer need to boil your water. Please expect the next update by Saturday, July 11 at 6 p.m. Thank you for your patience.**

Connecticut Water will provide free clean/potable drinking water for customers at the Essex Fire Department and the Westbrook Fire Department. Please bring your own clean jug or receptacle. If you choose, you may also use bottled water for consumption purposes.

If you have any questions please contact Connecticut Water Company by phone at 1-800-286-5700 or visit [ctwater.com](http://ctwater.com).

*Please share this information with all the other people who drink this water, especially those who may not have received this notice directly (for example, people in apartments, nursing homes, schools, and businesses). You can do this by posting this notice in a public place or distributing copies by hand or mail.*